



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRINCETON, MO., MAN INVOLVED IN U.S. 65 PURSUIT PLEADS GUILTY TO CARJACKING, ILLEGAL FIREARM

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Princeton, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to carjacking and illegal possession of a firearm.

Raymond L. Button, 73, of Princeton, pleaded guilty before U.S. Magistrate Judge James C. England this morning.

By pleading guilty, **Button** admitted that he stole a 1999 Dodge Ram truck by means of force and violence or by intimidation on Nov. 4, 2003. **Button** also admitted that he was in possession of a Smith and Wesson .357-caliber revolver, which was used during the carjacking.

Button was originally charged in a criminal complaint filed in federal court on Nov. 5, 2003, in Kansas City. The criminal complaint was later replaced by an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Nov. 21, 2003, in Kansas City.

According to an affidavit filed in support of the criminal complaint, **Button** was arrested after law enforcement officers pursued him driving the stolen vehicle on U.S. Highway 65. **Button** eventually stopped at a roadblock in Iowa.

As a result of pleading guilty, **Button** may be subject to a maximum sentence of up to 15 years in federal prison without parole, plus a fine up to \$250,000.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Jess E. Michaelson. The case was investigated by the Mercer County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Grundy County, Mo., Sheriff's Department, the Missouri State Highway Patrol, the Iowa State Patrol, the Wayne County, Iowa, Sheriff's Department, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and NITRO (the Northwest Missouri Interagency Team Response Operation).

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow